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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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TC 1700

#14D/3M  
123-03

In re patent application of

Stephen P. Scheinberg

Serial No. 09/558,393

Group Art Unit 1731

Filed April 25, 2000

Examiner Halpern, Mark

For WETLAY PROCESS FOR MANUFACTURING OF HIGHLY ORIENTED  
FIBROUS MATS

Box Non-Fee Amendment

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT AND  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 2, 2003, applicant elects, with traverse, the "carbon" fiber species (e.g., polyacrylonitrile or pitch based carbon) for prosecution. Base claims 36, 37 and 40 are amended to more generally cover carbon as the reinforcement fibers.

The claimed invention is directed to a mat or a product composed of a plurality of mats. The mat (or mats) include "a plurality of discontinuous reinforcement fibers". The mat has a specific basis weight (68 to 339 gm/square meters), and either a 90% machine direction orientation or a 9 to 1 machine to cross direction mat strength ratio. As can be seen from the data in the application, a variety of different fibers can be used as the reinforcement fibers, and can be constructed into a mat (or mats) with the prescribed basis weight and fiber orientation. As such, the restriction to a single species of fiber should be withdrawn.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 36, 37, and 40 as follows (a clean copy of the amended claims is attached as an appendix):